3. Two nominees of the Vice-Chancellor, of whom one should be a subject expert.

4. Two subject- experts not connected with the college to be nominated by the Chairperson of the Governing Body out of a panel of names approved by the University.

5. One senior teacher/Head of the concerned college (of the concerned subject) preferably having not less than 10 years of service as a teacher.

(b) There is no such proposal under consideration.

Recommendations of National Knowledge Commission

186. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the main recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission (NKC) on higher education; and

(b) the steps Government is taking to implement the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) In its report on higher education, the National Knowledge Commission (NKC) has, *inter-alia*, recommended increasing the number of universities to 1500, raising student fee to at least 20% of the revenues, regulation of higher education through establishment of an Independent Regulatory Authority for Higher Education, financing of higher education (including better management of assets like land available with universities) and public-private partnerships for setting up new institutions, opportunity for good foreign universities to come to India, salary differential within and between universities, limiting the role of University Grants Commission to disbursement of grants and maintenance. There is no consensus on the recommendations of the NKC. Teachers' Organizations have not favoured the recommendations. A conference of Vice Chancellors held in October, 2007 had also discussed these recommendations without any endorsement thereof.

The Central Government has constituted a Committee under Prof. Yash Pal to, *inter-alia*, advise on renovation and rejuvenation of higher education. The terms of reference of the Committee includes:-

(a) To review the functioning of the UGC/AICTE and to critically assess the role of the UGC/AICTE and their preparedness to provide institutional leadership to the emerging demands of access, equity, relevance and quality of higher education/ technical education and the university system.

(b) To review the provisions of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 and the All India Council for Technical Education Act 1987 and various suggestions for amendments to the said Acts by earlier Committees such as the Prof. Amreek Singh Committee.

(c) The role of the UGC in coordinating standards of higher education *vis-a-vis* the functional role of other statutory bodies such as AICTE, MCI, DCI, NCI, NCTE, DEC, etc.

(d) An assessment of the requirements of autonomy of the UGC *vis-a-vis* the Central Government and that of the university system *vis-a-vis* the UGC.

(e) The role of the UGC/AICTE in determining and enforcing standards of higher education/technical education in State Universities and the possibility of introducing a system of incentives and disincentives so that national standards of higher education/technical education are not compromised or diluted.

Recruitment of teachers under SSA

187. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Governments have been allowed to recruit teachers on contract basis, for primary and secondary levels of education, out of the funds provided by the Centre under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan;

(b) if so, the number of teachers appointed, so far, State-wise and category-wise, and payment to which each is entitled;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the teachers appointed so far are still not sufficient to impart proper education, as envisaged under this scheme; and

(d) if so, what further steps are proposed to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), teachers are recruited by the respective State Government, as per their own specific rules and regulations, norms and remuneration.

In cases where States' wish to recruit teachers in relaxation of conditions specified by the National Council of Teacher Education, they seek exemption from that body. Furthermore, States have initiated training programmes for such para teachers to acquire professional training through distance education mode with assistance of the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU).

OBC students benefited from reservation

188. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many OBC students have actually been able to avail the reservation benefits for admission to professional degree courses in the Central Government institutes during the current academic year;

(b) the names of the Central Government institutes where this OBC reservation could not be enforced;

(c) the measures for non-enforcement;